West Africa Police Information System 3 (WAPIS 3 EDF)

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Specific Objectives:

- To harmonize and structure the national and regional management of police information in the broader West Africa region;
- To increase the capability of the West Africa law enforcement community to collect, centralize, manage, and share their police data within the sub-region;
- To enhance global information sharing between West African law enforcement community and the global law enforcement community;
- Implementation of the Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems (AFIS) in countries that do not already possess an operational AFIS

Expected Results:

- The implementation of WAPIS at national and regional levels is supported by national governments and regional institutions;
- The WAPIS system is implemented at national level including through the provision of operational and technical support and training;
- The WAPIS regional data sharing platform is developed and implemented in cooperation with the ECOWAS Commission and ECOWAS Member States (and possibly Mauritania);
- The national WAPIS systems are linked up with INTERPOL channels through INTERPOL National Central Bureaus;
- The ECOWAS Member States (and possibly Mauritania) have adopted the required legal framework at national and regional levels;
- The WAPIS system is handed over to the national and regional authorities.
State of Play:

- Passed EDF Committee and adopted by Commission Decision C (2016) 7759 final on 30.11.2016 (Annex 2). The FA should be signed beginning of 2017 adapted 30th November 2016 – FA signed 10/08/2018 with a first sequence with funds provided from the EU Trust Fund until Feb 18. The Regional indicative programme (RIP) is financing the 3rd phase of WAPIS since, with an official launch celebrated in Abidjan on 26 June 2018.
- Visit of ECOWAS MS to INTERPOL in Lyon 19 January 2017.
- Operationalization of the WAPIS System in four pilot countries (Benin, Ghana, Mali and Niger); progress was however hampered by delays in procurement of remote connections to the WAPIS System. This delay has also affected INTERPOL I-24/7 connections in the respective countries.
- Implementation in four new countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, and Mauritania) has started, although the adoption of the required legal framework is the principal cause of delays on which next benefitting countries will have to count despite high level support;
- Planned Country assessments (e.g. Sierra Leone and Nigeria in Q3, 2018) until the end of the year to have launched the implementation in each ECOWAS country before year end;
- Study on regional data sharing mechanisms presented during an ECOWAS Experts Committee meeting (March 2018) : the Committee recommended a centralized system of data sharing with a transitional period of 4 years during which a decentralized system with direct and full data sharing would be used.

Source of funds: 11th EDF (CRIS ref: 2015/038-921)

Total Budget (EUR): 32M

Implementation period: 60 months (15 May 2017 to 14 May 2022)

Implementation modalities: Contribution Agreement with Interpol

Geographical region: West Africa

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Regional overview
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